BLM LIBRARY
88070490

MOUNTAIN MEADOW NATURAL AREA

NEVADA BLM WILDERNESS REPORT FEBRUARY, 1980

HD
243
.N3
M68
1980

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
NEVADA STATE OFFICE

#922357195
ID88070490
HD
243
.N3
M68
1980

WILDERNESS REPORT

Mountain Meadow
Natural Area

Bureau of Land Management
Department of the Interior

February 28, 1980

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mountain Meadow Natural Area

	Page
Recommendation	
I. Results of Review for Wilderness Characteristics	1
II. Economic and Social Impacts	1
III. Analysis of Effects of Recommendation	1
IV. Discussion of Options Foregone	1
V. Recommendation	1
VI. Approval	2
Map	
Natural Area With Contiguous Roadless Area Including Photographic Documentation	3
Statistical Summary	4
Photographs	5
Background Information	
I. Statement of Previous Designation	9
II. Significant Resource Data	9
III. Description of Report Area	9
IV. Summary of Public Participation	9
Appendix	
Situation Evaluation - Initial Inventory	10
Letters Received	12

RECOMMENDATION

Mountain Meadow Natural Area

I. Results of the Review for Wilderness Characteristics:

The Mountain Meadow Natural Area, 22 acres, was evaluated in the regular Statewide Initial Wilderness Inventory along with its contiguous roadless area, Inventory Unit NV-060-221. The entire unit was determined to "clearly and obviously lack wilderness characteristics" and was dropped from further review. The primary reason for this decision was the extremely small size of the roadless acreage (532 acres).

II. The Economic and Social Impacts:

The release of the Natural Area and its contiguous roadless acreage from wilderness consideration would not change the current management of Mountain Meadow Natural Area. Therefore, no economic or social impacts are expected to result from this recommendation.

III. Analysis of Long and Short Term Effects:

There are no long or short term effects of this recommendation. All uses which are compatible with management of the land as a Natural Area will continue to be permitted.

IV. Discussions of Options Foregone:

The recommendation of the Mountain Meadow Natural Area as suitable for wilderness is the only option foregone by the adoption of the present recommendation. Because of the area's small size, lack of naturalness and limited opportunities for solidude and primitive recreation, it does not now, nor will it ever, meet the minimum criteria needed for preservation as a wilderness area. Therefore, the adoption of the present recommendation will not affect any options considered in the future for the management of this area.

V. Recommendation:

The area should retain its Natural Area status and not be considered for wilderness designation.

Rationale:

The Mountain Meadow Natural Area consists of a 22-acre fenced meadow. It is contiguous with a 486 acre area, much of which is a small hill. The hill contains some pinyon pine and juniper and a general cover of plants from the sage community. A private parcel on the north straddles this area and another hill further north.

The combined areas of the two roadless areas are 1,500 acres, which include 40 acres of private property (the private property, however, will not be considered in this inventory). Aside from the fence at the meadow, some trenching, stream diversion and pipelines, and road maintenance has occurred. Hicks Station, an old stage stop is partially on the private parcel. It has structures, a pipeline and pond, some plowed fields and fences.

The area obviously and clearly does not have potential for wilderness. It lacks the required 5,000 acres of contiguous primitive recreation land, is not natural in appearance and has few primitive recreation or solitude opportunities.

VI. Approval:

Gene Nodine 2/9/80

Gene Nodine
Battle Mountain District Manager

Roger L. McEdward 3/3/80

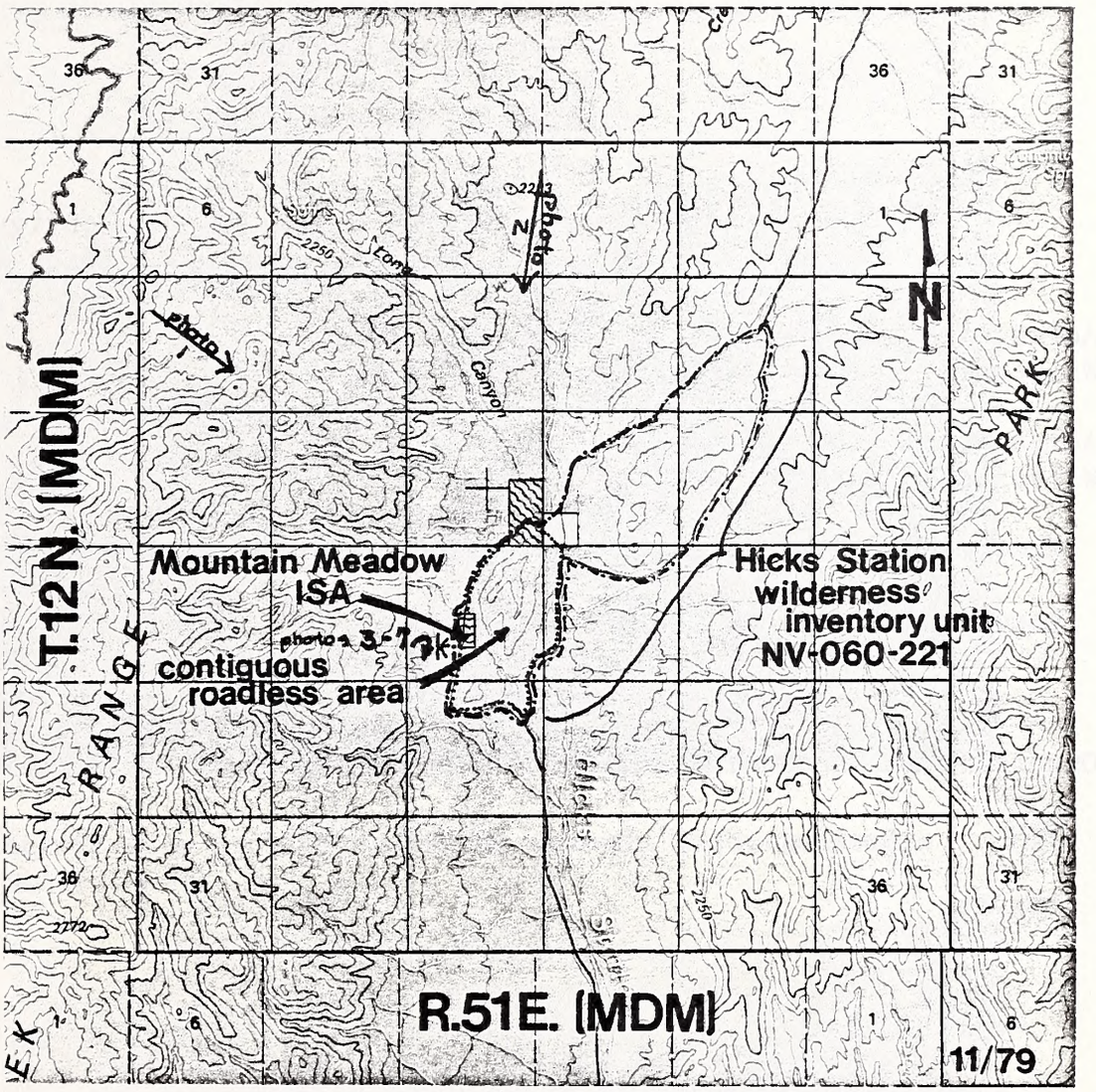
State Director — Date

S/Frank Gregg JUN 27 1980

Director — Date

MOUNTAIN MEADOW I.S.A.

Battle Mountain District, BLM, Nevada



SCALE 1:100 000

1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

KILOMETERS

LEGEND

Light-duty road, hard or improved surface . . . . .

Street or other road . . . . . .

Trail . . . . . .

Perennial stream . . . . . .

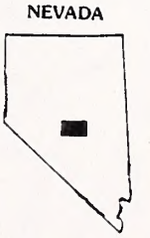
Intermittent stream . . . . . .

Federal Agency Protective Withdrawals . . . . . .

Public Water Reserves . . . . . .

Public Lands (Administered By Bureau of Land Management) . . . . .

NEVADA



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

CONTOUR INTERVAL 50 METERS

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Mountain Meadow Natural Area

Nye County, Nevada

Battle Mountain District

	Previously Designated Area	Contiguous Lands (if any)	Total
Acres With Wilderness Characteristics	0	0	0
Acres With Wilderness Characteristics			
Recommended For Designation	0	0	0
Recommended Against Designation	0	0	0
Ownership in Study Area (11-7-79)			
BLM	22	486	508
Private	0	24	24
			532

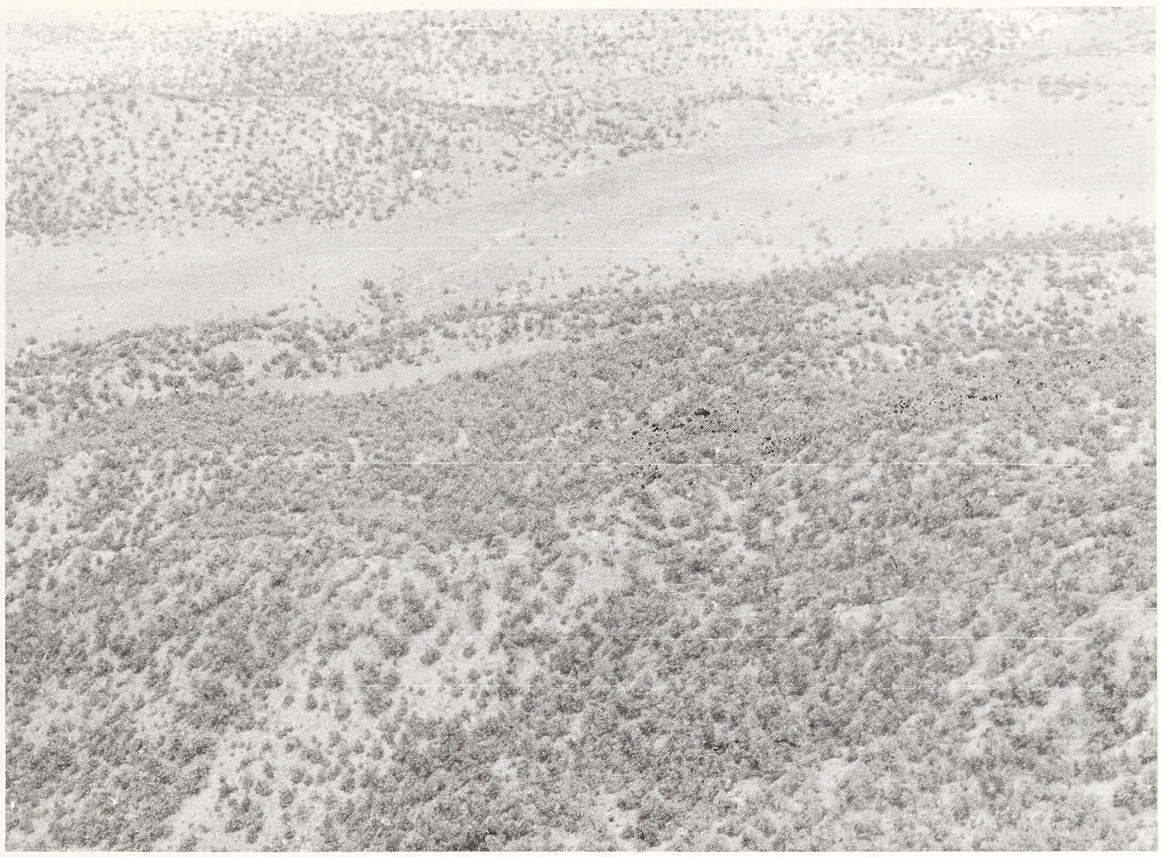


Photo #1 Aerial view looking southeast towards Mountain Meadow Natural Area.

Photo #2 Aerial view looking south towards the Natural Area.

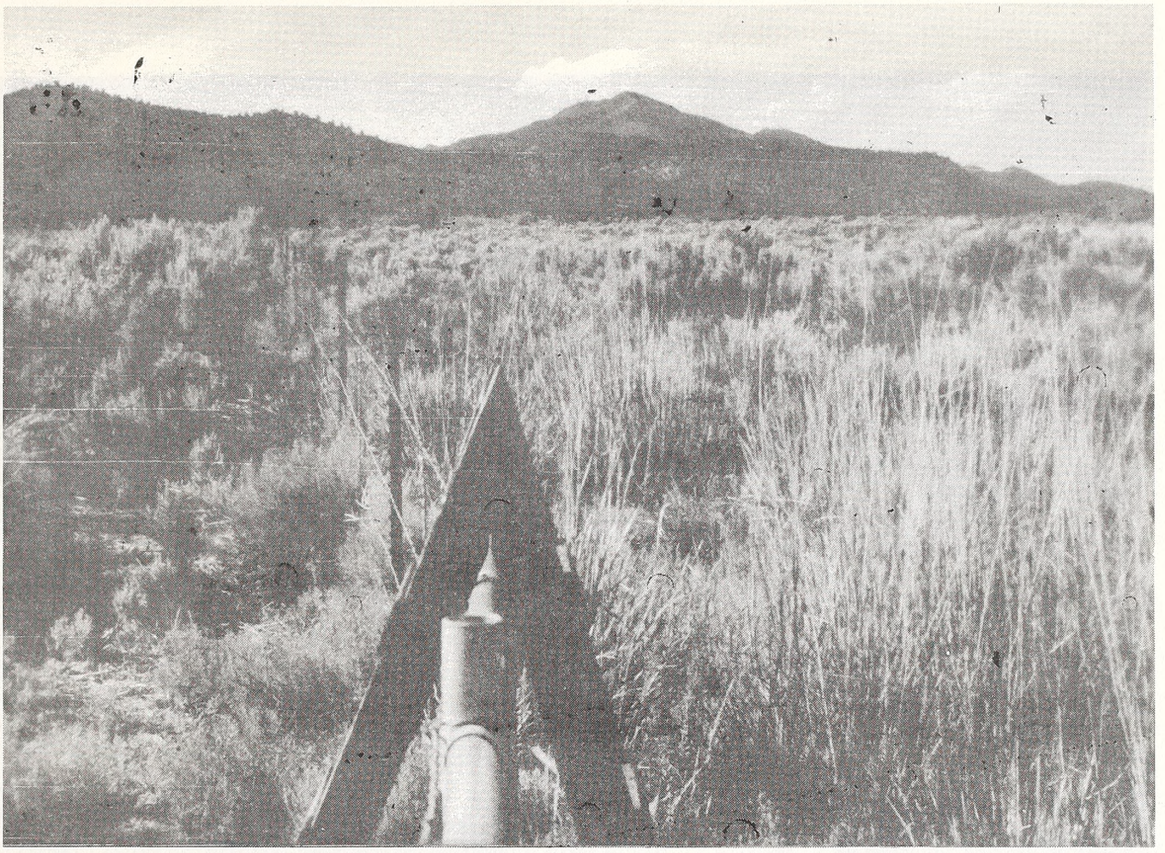


Photo #3 Fence-line which encloses the west side of the Natural Area.

Photo #4 Mountain Meadow Natural Area.

Photo #5 The Natural Area with contiguous land in background.

Photo #6 The Natural Area with contiguous land in background.

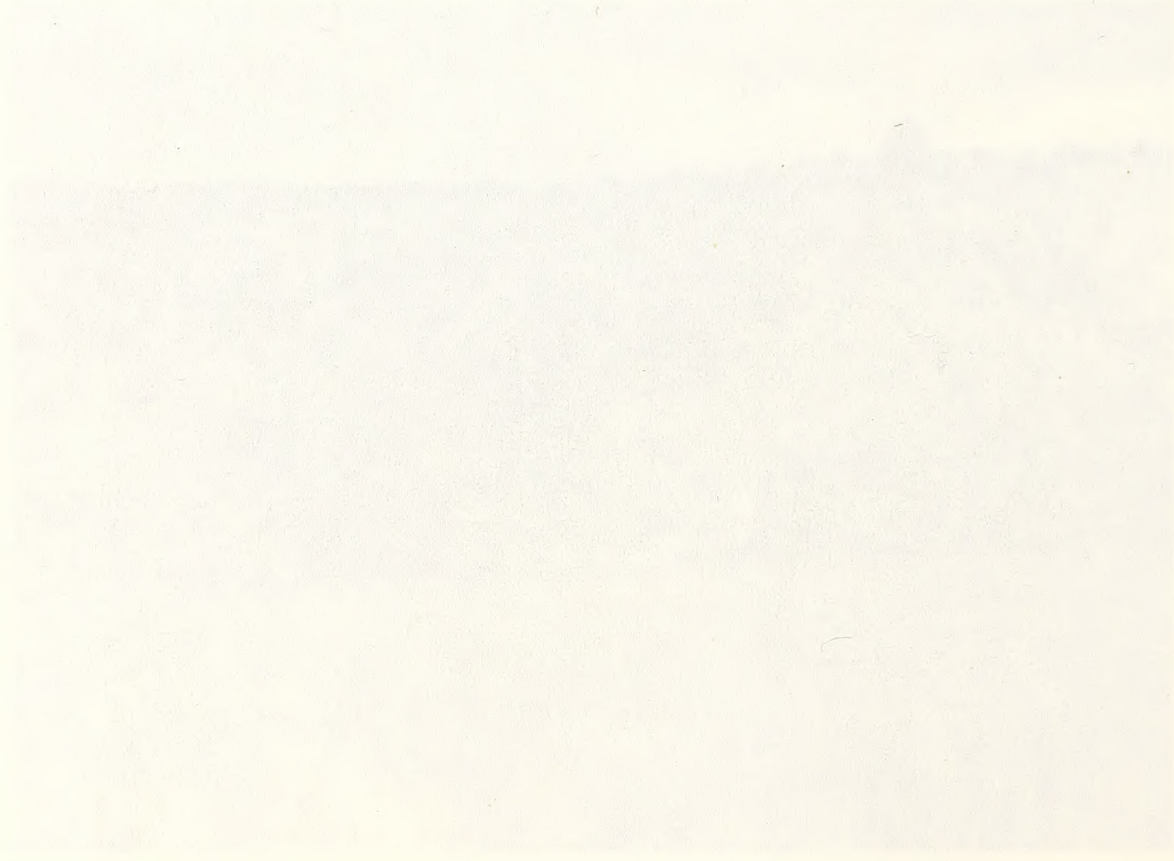


Photo #7 Fence line, which encloses the south side of the Natural Area.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

I. Statement of Previous Designation:

The 22 acre natural area was designated in 1968 as part of a Statewide scientific studies natural area designation project. This designation was published in the Federal Register.

II. Significant Resource Data: None

III. Description of Report Area:

Area is a natural meadow surrounded by rocky buttes about 100' higher. These buttes have a thin cover of Pinyon and Juniper. The meadow contains natural and introduced species of grasses and forbs and some scattered sage at the perimeters. Several springs lie in the natural area. Meadow elevation is 7,000 feet. URA descriptions are not available for this area.

IV. Summary of Public Participation:

A. Unit was reviewed through the Nevada Statewide Wilderness Inventory Public Involvement and Participation Plan. A 90-day public comment period was held on the Initial Inventory Proposed Decision for this unit and all other units in the State. The comment period began May 1, 1979, and concluded July 30. The comment period was announced in the Federal Register and in news releases, and public meetings were held in Battle Mountain, Reno, Las Vegas, Ely, and other Nevada cities.

B. Only one comment was submitted for this area which was received after the close of the formal comment period. It supported wilderness designation for the Natural Area.

APPENDIX

WILDERNESS INVENTORY
SITUATION EVALUATION

I. INVENTORY UNIT IDENTIFICATION

Unit Name Hicks Station I.S.A. (1251)

Inventory Unit No.: NV-060-221

State NEVADA District BATTLE MOUNTAIN

II. UNIT ANALYSIS

The Mountain Meadow 'Natural Area' is within this unit and therefore makes this an 'Instant Study Area'. The natural area itself is a 60 acre fenced meadow and it is contiguous with a 600 acre hill. The hill contains some Pinyons and Junipers and a general cover of plants of the sage community. A private parcel on the north straddles this area and another isolated hill. Combined the area of the unit is 1500 acres with 40 acres of private property. Aside from the fence at Mountain Meadow, some trenching, stream diversion, and road building has occurred. Hicks Station, an old stage stop, has structures, pipeline and ponds, some plowed fields, fences and roads.

III. UNIT EVALUATION

The area obviously and clearly does not have potential for wilderness. It lacks the required 5000 acres of contiguous federal land, is not natural in appearance and has few recreation or solitude opportunities.

IV. UNIT RECOMMENDATION (Check appropriate block.)

☐ Unit is recommended for intensive wilderness inventory

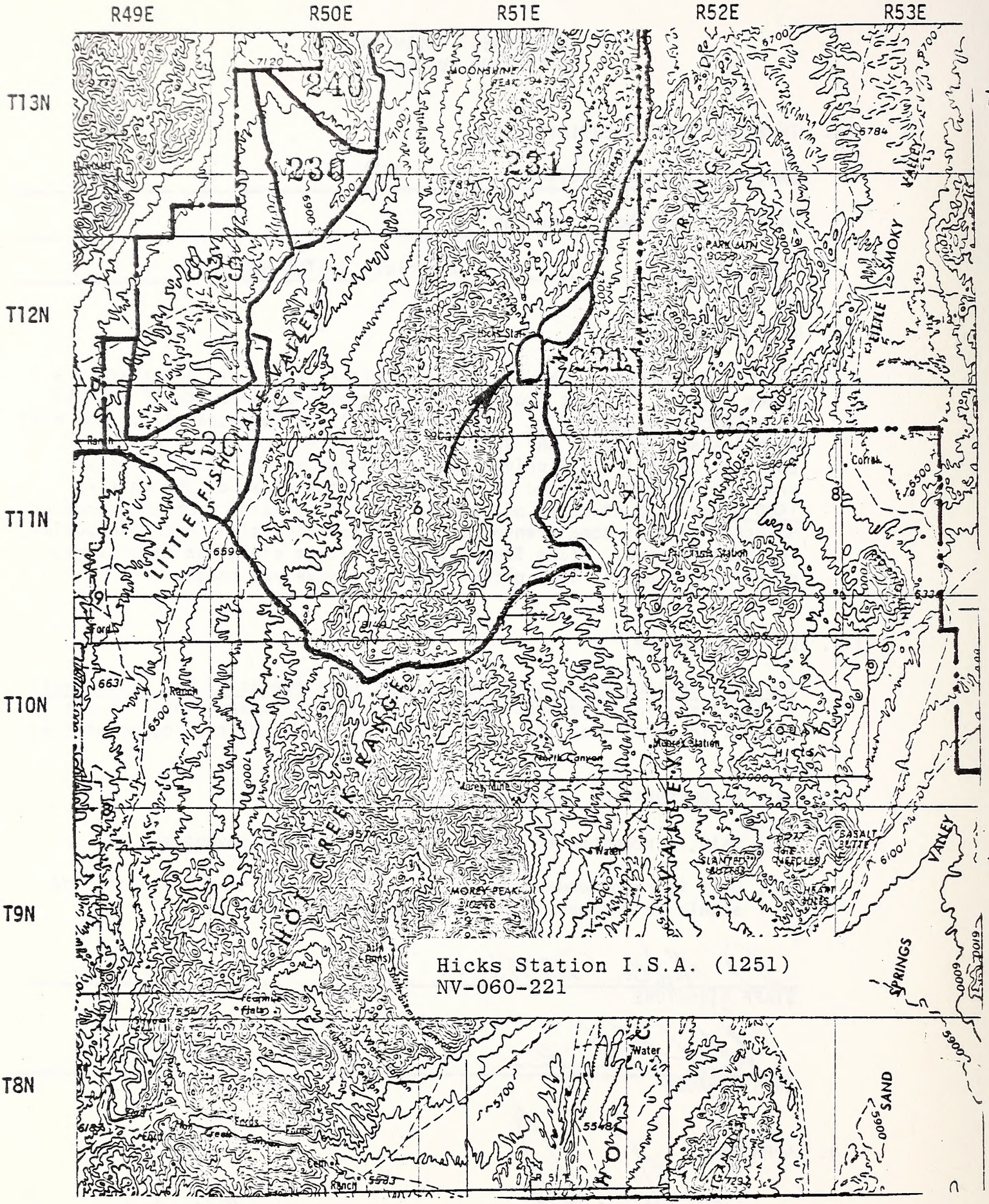
☒ Unit is recommended as not qualifying for further inventory and should be dropped from the wilderness review process

D Colton McMeen — 2-12-79
STAFF SIGNATURE — DATE

Colin P Christian — 2/16/79
AREA MANAGER — DATE

V. APPROVAL

Lane Hedine — 8/27/79
DISTRICT MANAGER — DATE



South Portion Antelope Range Review Unit 1251Y

LETTERS RECEIVED

Henry Peck
534 Bookwalter
New Carlisle, Ohio, 45344

January 22, 1980

Bureau of Land Management
300 Booth Street
Room 3008 Reno, Nevada, 89509

Dear Sirs:

I am writing in response to a recent Nevada BLM Wilderness Bulletin I received from you which listed several wilderness study areas decisions had been made about, concerning preserving such areas for wilderness status, and about certain other areas about which decisions have not yet been made. I feel that the following areas should be reverted to wilderness status and kept that way, though the decision has already been made to the contrary about them: Swamp Cedar NV-040-180, Pygmy Sage NV-040-99, Virgin Mountain NV-050-0420, and Mountain Meadow NV-060-221. These areas should be reclassified as wilderness. The criteria for wilderness retention given in the Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review dated December 12, 1979, are excessively strict and arbitrary, particularly with reference to areas less than 5000 acres and the extent of man's impact on these areas. The same goes for the following Wilderness Study Areas about which decisions have not yet been made: Pine Creek Canyon NV-050-0337, Pinyon-Joshua Tree Transision NV-050-0337 and NV-050-0338A, Bristlecone Pine NV-040-048A, Goshute Canyon NV-020-617 and NV-020-622. Please make all the above areas wilderness areas.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely yours,

Henry Peck